



Department *of* Human Services



*People***FIRST**

NJ Department of Human Services

Message from the Governor


Each year, the Department of Human Services, the State's social service agency serves more than one million individuals -- one of every eight New Jersey citizens. The Department's services and programs are designed to ensure that every New Jersey citizen has an opportunity to achieve as full and productive a life as possible.



Under the direction of Commissioner Gwendolyn L. Harris, the Department is working to provide a seamless array of services through partnerships and collaboration with communities and organizations throughout the State.

With a budget of more than \$8 billion, the Department administers the State's welfare program, Medicaid, disability services and our child protection system, which assists and supports abused and neglected children and their families. Human Services serves our citizens through seven divisions as well as the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Office of Education. The department also partners with community-based agencies which serve abused and neglected children, troubled families, economically disadvantaged individuals and families and people with disabilities.

As Governor, I commend and thank Commissioner Harris and all of the Human Services staff for the professionalism and compassion with which they serve New Jersey's most vulnerable residents. Whether the need is brief or lasts a lifetime, the Department's goal is to always make a positive difference in the lives of each person touched by its efforts.



James E. McGreevey,
Governor

Message from the Commissioner

Welcome to the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), where we are dedicated to providing high quality services and resources to protect, assist and empower children at risk, economically disadvantaged individuals and their families and people with disabilities.



This brochure is intended to help introduce you to many of the different ways our 19,000 employees fulfill this mission.

In all of our endeavors, we strive to put “People First.” We believe that to do the best job we can, the principles and policies that guide us must flow from the bottom up, and from outside in, not just from the top down.

Through our divisions and offices, we serve almost one million New Jersey residents, including abused and neglected children, troubled youth and families, people with low income and those who aren’t working, people with a mental illness or a disability and others who are blind, visually impaired, deaf or hard-of-hearing.

Please contact us if you have any questions or feel that we can serve you. For further information about DHS or our programs, call 609-292-3717, or any of the hotlines listed at the back of this brochure.


Gwendolyn L. Harris
Commissioner

How we help:

THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES (DMAHS)

(609) 588-2600

The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services administers New Jersey Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare. Together, these two state- and federally-funded programs provide access to comprehensive, quality healthcare for more than 900,000 people.

New Jersey Medicaid is available for low-income children, caretakers of children, pregnant women, and people who are aged, blind or disabled. NJ FamilyCare is open to uninsured children with family incomes up to 350 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, although eligibility is based on the family's income and size.

For information on New Jersey Medicaid, contact your local county Board of Social Services, which is listed in the blue pages of the telephone book. For information on NJ FamilyCare, call 1-800-701-0710.

THE DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (DMHS)

(609) 777-0702

The Division of Mental Health Services helps people with mental illnesses by providing services to help them live, work, socialize and learn to their fullest potential. This is done by providing a comprehensive system of care that

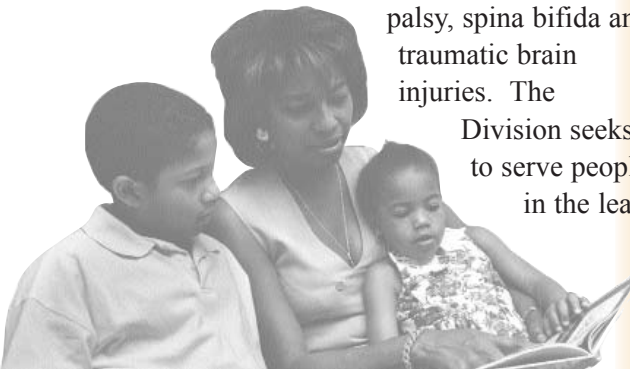
includes psychiatric in-patient settings and community-based support services, like partial care or out-patient counseling. The division sets mental health policy that seeks to include the participation and input of consumers, family members, mental health providers and advocates.

DMHS operates six psychiatric hospitals throughout the state which serve approximately 6,000 people each year. These are: the Ancora Psychiatric Hospital in Winslow Township; the Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital in Parsippany; the Trenton Psychiatric Hospital (TPH) in Trenton; the Ann Klein Forensic Center, which is located on the grounds of TPH; the Arthur Brisbane Child Treatment Center in Farmingdale; and the Senator Garrett W. Hagedorn Gero-Psychiatric Hospital in Glen Gardner.

THE DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (DDD)

(609) 292-7260

The Division of Developmental Disabilities serves people with developmental disabilities, such as mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy, spina bifida and traumatic brain injuries. The Division seeks to serve people in the least



restrictive environment possible and to foster individual development and independence. DDD helps people with disabilities stay in their own homes with their own families, whenever possible. Support services provided by DDD include respite care, counseling and referral services.

DDD operates seven residential centers, serving approximately 3,500 people with developmental disabilities. These are: the Green Brook Regional Center in Green Brook; the Hunterdon Developmental Center in Hunterdon; the New Lisbon Developmental Center in New Lisbon; the North Jersey Developmental Center in Totowa; the Vineland Developmental Center in Vineland; the Woodbine Developmental Center in Woodbine; and the Woodbridge Developmental Center in Woodbridge.

DDD serves more than 6,000 people in licensed community residences. These residences are operated by private agencies or individuals under contract with DDD. They include group homes, supervised apartments, supported living programs, skill development and family care homes.

**THE DIVISION OF YOUTH AND
FAMILY SERVICES (DYFS)**
(609) 292-6920

The Division of Youth and Family Services administers the state's family and child protection/child welfare programs. DYFS is mandated by law



to investigate all reports of child abuse and neglect. The division provides services to approximately 75,000 children and their families each year. Services include: general social services; foster care; adoption services; child care licensing; and residential treatment for troubled youths.

The division contracts with more than 900 public and private non-profit community provider agencies and individuals to provide community-based social services to children and families.

To report suspected child abuse or neglect, call 1-800-792-8610.

THE DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT (DFD) (609) 588-2400

The Division of Family Development administers the state's welfare reform program, Work First New Jersey (WFNJ), offering public assistance to people who are poor and homeless. WFNJ has helped to decrease the number of New Jerseyans on welfare by nearly 60% between 1997-2002.

This division serves approximately 700,000 people. DFD's major programs include: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF); General Assistance (GA); Food Stamps; Emergency Assistance (EA); child support and paternity programs; child care; home energy assistance; social services for the homeless; and the refugee resettlement program.

**THE DIVISION OF THE
DEAF AND HARD OF
HEARING (DDHH)**
(609) 984-7281



The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing advocates for people who are deaf or hard of hearing by promoting accessibility to programs, services and information. It is New Jersey's primary source of information on topics related to hearing loss and is also the state's primary interpreter referral service.

DDHH operates an assistive devices demonstration center at the Joseph Kohn Rehabilitation Center in New Brunswick, where people with hearing loss can familiarize themselves with a wide range of devices designed to improve their ability to communicate with the world around them. It also distributes free telecommunication devices for the deaf (TTYs) to low-income deaf and hard of hearing New Jersey residents.

**THE DIVISION OF DISABILITY
SERVICES (DDS)**
(609) 292-7800

The Division of Disability Services offers information, referral services and programs intended to help people with disabilities, whether through illness or injury, live as independently as possible.

Through its hotline, DDS responds to all questions and requests for information about disability-related issues, services and programs in New Jersey. The division also administers several different programs that provide a range of health care services and supports intended to help people with disabilities live as independently as possible at home and in the community. Some of these programs provide full Medicaid healthcare coverage for people with disabilities who otherwise would be ineligible.

DDS also administers NJ WorkAbility, which offers people with disabilities, who are working and whose income would otherwise make them ineligible, the opportunity to pay a small premium and receive full Medicaid coverage.

For additional information, call the hotline toll free: 1-888-285-3036.

THE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED (CBVI)

(973) 648-2324

The Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired provides educational, vocational rehabilitation, independent living and eye health services to individuals who are experiencing a vision impairment that is affecting normal, daily life activities. The Commission also works to prevent and reduce the incidence of blindness by conducting a variety of educational and eye disease detection programs. These services include a mobile

eye health screening unit and other support services and educational programs to help New Jerseyans better understand and prevent the further development of eye diseases, such as glaucoma or diabetic retinopathy.

CBVI serves approximately 50,000 persons each year. This includes people who benefit from both the Commission's blindness prevention services and visual adjustment programs. For information and referral call 973-648-3333.

THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION (OOE) **(609) 588-3165**

The Office of Education provides year-round educational programming for students who are clients of DHS or who have been referred to OOE through arrangements with other government agencies. These students generally require intensive educational services and support that are not available in the public schools. They include children with severe physical and/or emotional disabilities, pregnant and parenting teens who have dropped out of school and youth who have been referred by the juvenile justice system.

The Office of Education currently serves approximately 2,400 young people ages three to 21 in either the state facilities or residential centers in which they live, one of 18 regional schools or in leased space, such as public school classrooms. OOE also administers the New Jersey Youth Corps program and five AmeriCorps programs.

About our special programs:

OFFICE FOR PREVENTION OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (609) 984-3351

The Office for Prevention of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities strives to reduce the number of children in New Jersey who have severe, chronic mental or physical disabilities. It does this by providing education and information to the public and healthcare community about ways to prevent activities that can cause these conditions if they occur before conception, during pregnancy, at birth or during the developmental years of early childhood. For example, the Office is very involved in helping to educate the public about the dangers of drug and alcohol use by mothers during pregnancy and lead paint ingestion by young children.

The Office also publicizes new research on ways to reduce the risks of damaging children before, during and after birth and about newly discovered societal and environmental causes of disabilities. It works with other agencies to foster coordination of efforts to educate the public about prevention activities, and it advocates for changes in societal and environmental conditions that endanger children.

PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN



The Partnership for Children works to expand and coordinate services for children with emotional and behavioral disturbances and their families. Through the Partnership, existing resources are pooled and managed so that services are expanded for and tailored to the needs of individual children.

The Partnership seeks to provide families with quick access to a broad array of services and resources. It does this by establishing a cooperative working relationship among the various public, private and non-profit entities that serve children with emotional and behavioral disturbances and by creating a standard entry process into the state's system of care. In other words, regardless of which "door" is used to enter the system (e.g., child welfare, mental health or juvenile justice systems), children are assessed using common screening protocols, and their care is coordinated across all systems.

GOOD NEIGHBORS, COMMUNITY LIVING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



The Good Neighbors program is a community outreach program designed to reduce stigma around community housing alternatives for people with disabilities. The guiding principle of the Good Neighbors program is to spread a message of tolerance, diversity and acceptance of people with disabilities. A toll-free hotline

number exists to answer questions about community housing and services for people with disabilities. The Good Neighbors toll-free number is 1-877-DHS-LINE (347-5463).



NJ FamilyCare provides low-cost health insurance to uninsured children from working families that cannot afford to purchase health insurance on their own. Eligibility is limited to children from families earning up to 350 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and is based both on the size of the family and the family's annual income. (For example, 350 percent of FPL for a family of four is \$63,500 a year.) The program also provides insurance for children who are aging out of the foster care system and legal immigrants admitted to this country for permanent residency. The program provides comprehensive healthcare including preventive care and immunizations, hospitalization, x-rays and lab work and prescription drugs.

**KINSHIP NAVIGATOR
PROGRAM**
1-877-816-3211



Kinship Care Programs provide financial assistance for grandparents and other relatives who are caring for a family member's child or children. The cornerstone of these programs is

the **Kinship Navigator**, which helps kinship caregivers “navigate” their way through various governmental systems to find information about the Kinship Care Programs and other available services.

The **Kinship Child Care Subsidy Program** will help kinship caregivers with the cost of childcare while **The Kinship Care Wraparound Services Program** will pay for one-time and short-time expenses such as furniture, moving expense, legal services or respite care. To be eligible, kinship caregivers must be able to prove they are relatives or legal guardians of the children and that the children live with them. Eligibility also depends on the age of the caregiver and the family’s size and income.

In addition, monthly subsidies of \$250 per child are available for kinship caregivers whose annual income is no higher than 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, or \$27,150 for a family of four. Similar subsidies are also available for kinship caregivers, regardless of income, who are caring for children placed with them by the Division of Youth and Family Services.

For information on these programs, call the Kinship Navigator at 1-877-816-3211.



NJ TASK FORCE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

(609) 292-0888

The NJ Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect was created to bring a coordinated, statewide effort to solving the problem of child abuse and neglect. The Task Force is comprised of members of the Governor's cabinet, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General, the Public Defender, the Superintendent of the State Police, members of the Senate and General Assembly and the general public. The task force makes recommendations to improve the state's response to child abuse and neglect and educates communities and professionals about the prevention of child maltreatment.



CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND
(609) 633-3992

The Children's Trust Fund finances child abuse and neglect prevention programs in New Jersey's communities. It is funded by income tax contributions and private donations, every dollar of which is used for child abuse prevention activities. Each year, the Children's Trust Fund awards grants to community-based agencies and programs, ranging from grass-roots efforts to comprehensive projects, in collaboration with networks of agencies and resources. Since 1985, the New Jersey Children's Trust Fund has awarded \$10.5 million to more than 500 programs.

CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS IN CHILDREN RELIEF FUND

1-800-335-FUND



The Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund provides financial assistance to families struggling with medical expenses for a child who became catastrophically ill or injured. Covered expenses include, but are not limited to, special pediatric ambulatory care, acute or specialized in- or out-patient hospital care, physician services, medical equipment or disposable medical supplies, medically-related home modifications, experimental medical treatment, home health care and medical transportation.

Since 1989, it has provided more than \$70 million to more than 2,900 New Jersey families.

HOTLINES – all toll free!!!!!!

**Adoption Information
800-99-ADOPT**

**Catastrophic Illness in
Children Relief Fund
800-335-FUND**

**Child Abuse Hotline
800-792-8610**

**Child Care Hotline
800-332-9227**

**Child Support Hotline
877-655-4371**

**Division of the Deaf
and Hard of Hearing
800-792-8339**

**Division of
Developmental
Disabilities
800-832-9173**

**Division of Family
Development
800-792-9773**

**Division of Mental
Health Services
800-382-6717**

**Division of Youth and
Family Services
Action Line
800-331-DYFS**

**Domestic Violence
800-572-7233**

**Family Help Line
(for stressed parents)
800-THE-KIDS**

**Food Stamps
800-792-9773**

**Foster Care
Information
877-NJ-FOSTER**

**Good Neighbors,
Community Living for
People with Disabilities
877-DHS-LINE**

**Kinship Navigator
Program
(raising relatives'
children)
877-816-3211**

**Medicaid Fraud and
Abuse Hotline
888-937-2835
888-692-2140**

**Medicaid Dental
Bureau Hotline
800-782-0181**

**Medicaid Medical
Assistance
800-356-1561**

**New Jersey Care 2000
(Medicaid Managed
Care)
800-701-0710**

**NJ FamilyCare &
KidCare
Health Insurance
800-701-0710**

**PAAD Pharmaceutical
Assistance to the
Aged & Disabled
800-792-9745**

**Safe Haven for Infants
877-839-2339**

**Division of
Disability Services
888-285-3036**

**Teen Pregnancy
Hotline
800-THE-KIDS**

MISSION

The New Jersey Department of Human Services
is dedicated to providing
high quality services and resources
to protect, assist and empower:
children at risk;
economically disadvantaged individuals and families;
and people with disabilities.
We emphasize “people first”
in the delivery of services.
We strive to ensure a seamless array of services
through partnerships and collaboration
with communities statewide.

CORE VALUES

- People FIRST
- Diversity
- Inclusion
- Service Excellence
- Partnerships
- Public Trust

VISION

Our vision is to transform the New Jersey
Department of Human Services
into an exceptional organization
driven by the needs of individuals and families,
partnering with others to ensure
the delivery of a seamless array of
supports and services to make a positive
impact on the life of each person
touched by our efforts.



NJ Department of Human Services
609-292-3717

www.state.nj.us/humanservices

James E. McGreevey, Governor
Gwendolyn L. Harris, Commissioner